

**Minutes
Township of Falls
Traffic Calming Committee Meeting
March 14, 2022**

Members in Attendance:

Amy Gallagher
Ariane Presser
Leon Thompson

Members Absent:

Ian James
Robert Leary

Also in Attendance:

Chief Nelson Whitney, Falls Township Police Department
Chris Fazio, Remington & Vernick Engineers, Inc. (RVE)

Chief Whitney opened the meeting at 6:34 pm.

The minutes from the February 10, 2020 meeting were approved with no changes.

Chief Whitney handed out the traffic citations/accidents/special detail data for the months of February 2022 and February 2021 for comparison. The locations of this data are from: Route 1, Route 13, Lincoln Highway, 600 South Olds Boulevard, North Oxford Valley Road, and Bristol Oxford Valley Road & Oxford Valley Road.

Chief Whitney reported that our Police will be doing an Aggressive Driving Wave funded partially by PennDOT. We will get reimbursed for officer overtime for these details. We will have 2 officers near high crash areas and also doing speed enforcement. The first detail will be 3/22 and 3/24. The second one will be 4/12 and 4/14. On St. Patrick's Day, we will have an officer on a DUI roving patrol from 10 pm to 3 am.

Chief Whitney then reported about traffic complaints in the Township. There have been a few complaints near Manor Elementary and Pennsbury High School West on S. Olde Boulevard. With the bus driver shortage, there are more parents picking up and dropping off students, so most of the complaints were about congestion. Chief Whitney has met with the district superintendent regarding this issue. There has also been stop sign complaints for Andover Road, and at Devon and Chelsea. It turned out to be a local resident that was running the stop signs. The Police identified the resident from their license plate, and they have spoken to them about this.

The Police Department did have temporary no parking signs up on Andover Road and North Oxford Valley Road for approximately 8 months. Then there was a complaint from a therapy business stating the signs made walking too far for their customers. So the signs were taken down.

Regarding ongoing traffic issues, Ariane Presser informed that drivers are still running the traffic light at Trenton Road and Olds Boulevard. It is not specific to a time of day. Sometimes two cars in a row run the red light. Ms. Presser also noted that the left turn signal has no amber. It is green and then just goes away. Mr. Fazio said this area cannot be fixed from an engineering perspective due to the layout. Chief Whitney said he will have his officers keep an eye on this area.

Chief Whitney said that we can't permanently change driving habits, but we can focus on education and enforcement. That's why they concentrate on Route 1, Route 13, and Lincoln Highway, which are high violation areas.

Ms. Gallagher said that she notices vehicles parked on the sidewalks on North Olds Boulevard into South Olds Boulevard. Chief Whitney replied that he can have AC Officer McShane visit that area and issue tickets since this is not legal in Falls Township.

Chief Whitney asked if anyone has ideas for the Police department's social media pages. He suggested reviewing the "Move Over Law". He also referred everyone to the Responders Safety Learning Network which is available to everyone for training. They have 40+ traffic courses on their website and it is a great resource for PSA. Mr. Thompson suggested going into prom season that a mangled vehicle is a good reminder to drive sober and safely. Chief Whitney said this would be a great item to use on social media as we get closer to prom season.

Chief Whitney inquired as to whether there was any other business. Ms. Presser asked what happened to the "Stop Means Stop" signs. She said the sign on Elderberry by the park is gone. Mr. Thompson replied that Elderberry Park is frequently vandalized, but he thinks there is still one of these signs on Alden Avenue near Valley Day School. The Chief said he will look into putting more of these signs out.

Ms. Gallagher said that going from Village Park toward Stanwood the house on the left there has big bushes that may be blocking the stop sign which could cause accidents. Mr. Thompson said the Township has an ordinance about this. Mr. Fazio informed that the bush must be below 32".

Mr. Thompson asked if we should discuss the future traffic implications of the new Northpoint development. There is a potential of 10,000 employees working there eventually. Mr. Fazio said he could bring more information regarding Northpoint to the next meeting. Chief Whitney said we will add this to the next meeting agenda.

There was no further business, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:02 pm.